

LIQUID WASTES

We all want clean drinking water and healthy creeks. So, we all have to do our part to protect our water.

A major source of water pollution in the United States is urban stormwater runoff. Runoff occurs when rain or snow/ice melt flows over parking lots and streets - picking up oil and other pollutants on the way to the nearest creek or lake.

Abilene is working hard to protect stormwater from pollution. Your help is crucial. This brochure is to help you make good decisions about the way you use rental equipment.

It is up to all of us to protect our water!

The use of some rental equipment can create liquid wastes if not cleaned up properly. Allowing wastes to flow into a ditch, gutter or storm drain can pollute our creeks and lakes (it is also illegal).

Why? - storm drains flow directly to creeks and other waterways without filtration or treatment. The table inside this brochure outlines steps you can take to help protect our water.

WATER PROTECTION GUIDE RENTAL STORE CONSUMER

What you need to know when renting equipment for those DIY home jobs and construction work.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Abilene Stormwater Services Division

www.abilenestormwater.com

325-437-4937

Call for a free visit and for the tools to do it right.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

www.tceq.texas.gov

512-239-1000

Environmental Protection Agency

www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater



STORMWATER REGULATIONS

We all want clean drinking water and healthy waterways. So, we all have to do our part to protect Abilene's water quality. Your help is crucial and required by law.

It is unlawful for materials such as trash or spilled liquids to be deposited in such a manner or location as to constitute a spill or "threatened discharge" to storm drains, gutters, or to local creeks or lakes.

We hope you will use the information in this brochure to make good choices while operating your facility in order to protect our local waterways and avoid costly fines.

FINES AND PENALTIES

Materials not properly contained are considered to be "threatened discharges or spills." Violations include fines at a minimum of \$500



RENTAL EQUIPMENT	APPROPRIATE DISPOSAL
Carpet Cleaner	Discharge dirty water to a drain or toilet inside a building. ¹
Cement Mixer	Put hardened concrete in the trash. Rinse off equipment onto grass or other unpaved surface. Do not allow water to flow away from the area.
Cement Saw or Grinder	Allow slurry to dry and sweep up dust immediately, or wet vacuum and drain onto unpaved surface. Do not allow water to flow away from the area.
Earth-moving Equipment	Keep dirt on-site. Prevent soil from washing into the storm drain. Cover disturbed soils and stockpiles with plastic or landscape cloth. When the project is complete, seed and mulch disturbed areas immediately. Do not stockpile or store soil in the street or on paved areas.
Garden Equipment	Apply pesticides and fertilizers only when rain is not forecasted, and buy and mix only the amount you need. Rinse containers, using the rinse water as product. Dispose of rinsed containers in the trash. Dispose of unused pesticides as hazardous waste. ² When pruning or cleaning up yard waste, compost or take clippings and brush to municipal yard waste collection facility.
Paint Sprayer	Water based paint: wipe excess paint out of sprayer, then rinse equipment into sink or toilet. ¹ Small amounts of leftover paint can be allowed to dry in the original container, then put into trash. For larger quantities, dispose of as hazardous waste. ² Oil-based paint: filter and reuse thinners and solvents. Dispose of all cleanup materials and excess paint as hazardous waste. ²
Pressure Washer	Commercial operations must capture all wastewater for disposal to sanitary sewer. ¹ Residents may only discharge wash water (with no soap) used to remove dust for appearance purposes to the storm drain. However, it is more protective of the environment to capture the water for disposal to the sanitary sewer. ¹ Small amounts of wash water free of detergents/soaps/chemicals may be disposed onto landscaping or unpaved surfaces where the discharge will not cause flooding or flow to a storm drain or body of water.
Pump	Temporary groundwater dewatering: (residential site) ensure that sediments and pollutants are not present. Check site records for soil and groundwater test results. Check for odors, discoloration, or an oily sheen. Is the water clear and free of sediment? If the water is free of sediments and pollutants, you may discharge to a landscaped area. For commercial or construction sites, contact the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality ³ or the Abilene Stormwater Division ⁴ for guidance. Pool, spa, or fountain discharge: ensure that chlorine and chemicals are not present; then discharge to a landscaped area. Note: If a landscaped area is not available, or if flow exceeds 10 gallons/minute, discharge to sanitary sewer ¹ or storm sewer system ⁴ with permission from the City's Stormwater Division.
Sand Blaster	Non-hazardous paint: capture on a plastic sheet or tarp; sweep up and dispose as trash. Hazardous paint: capture on a plastic sheet or tarp, sweep up and dispose as hazardous waste. ²
Sander	Sweep and dispose of in trash.
Sewer Snake	Rinse in bucket or container and discharge rinse water to a toilet inside building.

¹ Unlike the storm drainage system that drains directly into creeks, plumbing inside buildings is typically connected to a sanitary sewer system that drains to a wastewater treatment plant where the water is cleaned before it is discharged into the environment. Check with the City of Abilene's Wastewater Treatment Plants with questions on what can go down the drain.

² Residents of Abilene with driver's license or other proof of residency, dispose of household hazardous waste at the City of Abilene's Environmental Recycling Center

³ Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), 325-698-9674